Coptic 'Gangsters' Force Patriarch, 76, to Resign
Special to The New York Times.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Jul 26, 1954; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
pg. 3

Coptic 'Gangsters' Force Patriarch, 76, to Resign

Special to The New York Times.

CAIRO, July 25—The Patriarch Anba Yusab II, 76-year-old spiritual leader of 10,000,000 Orthodox Coptic Christians, was kidnapped and forced to sign his resignation at gun point by a group of young Coptic extremists early today.

The Patriarch, unharmed, was in seclusion at St. George's Convent in suburban Old Cairo. Members of the gang that seized him and took over control of the Patriarchate and church in Downtown Cairo, were beseiged there by 200 regular and auxiliary police. With water, electricity and food supplies cut off, the youths, most of university age, were expected to submit soon.

Coptic laymen said the Church had no provision for the resignation or abdication of the Patriarch. It was possible, however, that in view of Anba Yusab's age and ill health and evidence of discontent among his followers, he might be persuaded to withdraw to a monastery while Archbishop Anba Saweres of Minia, Upper Egypt, took over the office.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.